

## Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 EB-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DPW-01 SCA-01 L-02

/055 W

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R 021322Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3922

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3886

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SWEL ET US XA

SUBJ: RELIEF OPERATIONS IN ERITREA

REFS: (A) ADDIS 3685 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS 3725 (NOTAL)

1. DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AMBASSADOR DICKO (CAMEROON), CALLED MEETING APRIL 2, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY AMBASSADORS OF FRANCE, SWEDEN, UK, SWITZERLAND, ITALY AND US CHARGE. DICKO INFORMED PARTICIPANTS THAT HE HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS APRIL 1 TO EPMG FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO CONCERNING RELIEF OPERATIONS IN ERITREA (CF REF A).

2. DICKO SAID HE TOLD FONMIN THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN BY ICRC, OTHER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS "AND EVEN ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS (ERC)." HIS INTERLOCUTORS HAD EXPLAINED  
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DIFFICULTIES THEY ENCOUNTERING IN THEIR EFFORTS LAUNCH RELIEF

OPERATIONS IN ERITREA AND HAD ASKED HIM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE OBTAIN FORTHCOMING EPMG POSTURE ON SUCH OPERATIONS BY THEM THERE. FONMIN HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ERC HAD MADE SUCH REPRESENTATIONS TO DEAN. FONMIN HAD INFORMED DICKO THAT EPMG WOULD APPRECIATE ICRC AND OTHER VOLAG CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIEF IN ERITREA, PROVIDING SUCH RELIEF CHanneled THROUGH ERC AND/OR EPMG'S RELIEF AND REHABILITATION (R&R) COMMISSION. PROBLEM, ACCORDING FONMIN, WAS THAT ICRC UNPREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH ERC.

3. MEETING THEN DISCUSSED SITUATION WHICH NOW OBTAINS. IT CONCLUDED THAT R&R COMMISSION CHANNEL LEFT MUCH TO BE DESIRED AND THAT EPMG UNLIKELY ALLOW INDEPENDENT ICRC OPERATIONS IN ERITREA. MEETING AGREED THAT BEST HOPE FOR CHANNELING RELIEF TO NEEDY PEOPLE IN THAT PROVINCE LAY IN ICRC/ERC AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN THIS TASK. PARTICIPANTS QUITE AWARE OF DISORGANIZATION WHICH CHARACTERIZES ERC POSTURE IN ERITREA. THEY FELT, HOWEVER, THAT ERC IN COOPERATION WITH CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES IN ERITREA COULD PROBABLY PUT TOGETHER STRUCTURE OF SOME RELIABILITY THROUGH WHICH RELIEF GOODS MIGHT BE DISTRIBUTED, AT LEAST IN ASMARA AND POSSIBLY IN RURAL AREA UNDER EPMG CONTROL WITHIN ERITREA, ONCE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TAKES FIRM POSITION IN FAVOR OF SUCH OPERATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, MEETING CHARGED DEAN TO URGE UPON ICRC'S ADDIS REP GAILLARD EFFORT TO WORK OUT COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH ADDIS ERC HEADQUARTERS. GROUP FELT THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A LETTER OF COMMITMENT IN WHICH ERC MIGHT SET FORTH NATURE AND SCOPE OF EFFORTS IT PREPARED TO MAKE TO TRANSPORT RELIEF GOODS TO ERITREA AND DISTRIBUTE THEM THERE. MEETING DULY NOTED LIMITATIONS OF COOPERATION IMPOSED UPON ICRC BY GENEVA CONVENTION (E.G. PRESERVATION ITS SEPARATE IDENTITY AND LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY NEUTRALITY REQUIREMENTS VIS-A-VIS ERC AS INTER ALIA POLITICAL INSTRUMENT OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT) BUT FELT THAT POSTURE THIS FAR TAKEN BY ICRC HERE PERHAPS OVERLY RIGID ON THESE POINTS.

4. MEETING ALSO CHARGED DEAN TO APPROACH EPMG ONCE MORE IF AND WHEN ICRC/ERC COOPERATION AGREEMENT ELABORATED WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING ITS SEAL OF APPROVAL AS WELL AS DESIGNATION OF, PREFERABLY, DIRG MEMBER TO TAKE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN RELIEF OPERATIONS. DEAN AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THESE TASKS AND CONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WOULD BE ABLE TO COUNT ON SUPPORT FROM OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI MBOUMOUA IN THEIR EXECUTION. ASKED WHAT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS HAD APPROACHED HIM, DEAN SAID THAT IT WAS CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT ONLY.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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